



Fort Worth Radio Services Newsletter

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 New Opportunities...
- 1 P25 Upgrade Project In Full Swing
- 2 LTE Public Safety Test Planned For Next Summer
- 3 Rebanding: Second Touch Underway
- 3 New Advisory Panels Established
- 4 Radio Services Updates
- 5 Interoperability Plan Drafted
- 5 Microwave Upgrade
- 6 Did You Know?

New Opportunities...

By Alan Girton

Since the first of September, the CFW P25 Radio Upgrade project team has been heads down getting organized, planning, reviewing the very smallest details of the P25 radio system design, and initiating actions for the implementation of the new system. Along the way, we've been reminded of all the opportunities we'll have to make this communications system more reliable, more secure, and more functional for our first responders. Better coverage, encryption, preventive maintenance and other improvements are among the topics we'll be sharing during the next year.

And speaking of new opportunities, CFW has two good friends who are moving to different challenges. Most folks have heard that Gerard Eads, the Public Safety Communications Manager for the City of Arlington (and hero of the Super Bowl interoperable communications committee!), retired in November. Also, C.J. Holt with the North Central Texas Council Of Governments has been named Mobile Technology Center Manager for the City of Dallas. Congratulations to Gerard and C.J.!

P25 Upgrade Project In Full Swing

By Alan Girton

The infrastructure hardware designated for the City of Fort Worth's new P25 upgrade is almost ready for testing at Motorola's Customer Service Center in Schaumburg, Illinois. The equipment (*pictured at right*) is scheduled to be ready for staging during the week of December 11. A contingent from the City of Fort Worth will be on hand that week to help test the hardware before it is shipped to the Metroplex.



Please see *P25 Project* on page 4

LTE Public Safety Test Planned For Next Summer Texas Motor Speedway Chosen As First Site

By Eric Upchurch



The City of Fort Worth has begun talks with Texas Motor Speedway (TMS) on performing a test of the 4G broadband wireless network designed for public safety use called Long Term Evolution (LTE). The City has purchased two radio access network sites from Motorola and plans to test one of the sites during the June Indy Car races at TMS. It is a perfect time and place to test such a system since cellular data coverage at the track is often slow, spotty and inconsistent. With LTE, speeds of up to 4 gigabits per second are possible under certain conditions. Because the network is designed for public safety agencies only, the

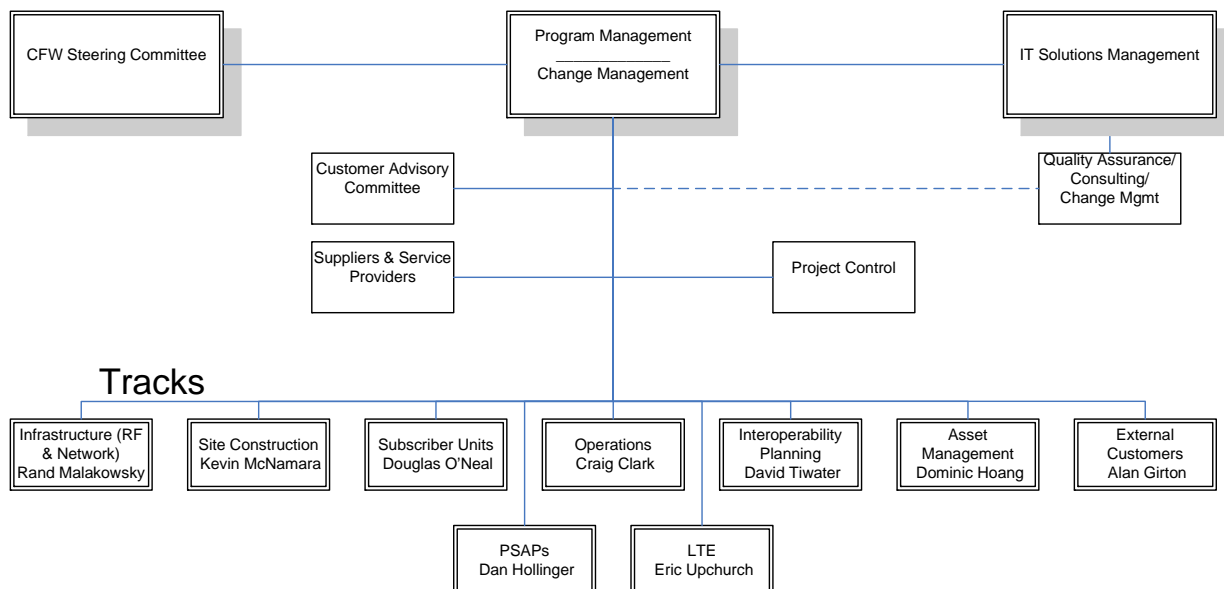
system will have prioritization levels, security and redundancy not available on commercial LTE systems.

Mat Stoley, TMS Director of Operations, and Assistant Director Chuck Rogers were very happy to work with the City on bringing up a site to test during a race. They have provided rooftop space to install equipment and antennas. The City hopes to test current CAD systems as well as high bandwidth applications for the June race, and plans to complete the rest of the LTE system in late 2012.

The City of Fort Worth will be partnering with Harris County for the backbone services of the LTE network. CFW representatives plan to join their counterparts at Harris County, City of Corpus Christi and others in December to meet with the newly-appointed Deputy Assistant Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety who is responsible for the state's LTE deployment. The intent is to enlist the state's support for communities as they plan for LTE implementation.

Please see *LTE* on page 3

P25 Radio Upgrade Project Organization



Second Touch Underway With CFW Police & Code Blue Final Major Milestone For Rebanding Project

By John Eikerts

The final major milestone for the federally mandated 800 MHz rebanding project, the Second Touch, is 95 percent complete for the City of Fort Worth Fire. Second Touch rebanding is also underway with the City of Fort Worth Police and Code Blue. Second Touch rebanding involves removal of old Public Safety and Works channels from all mobile and portable radios and fleet map clean up. Overall completion of the Second Touch is scheduled for July 2012.

Second touch rebanding for the CFW Police and Code Blue will be completed in April 2011. Immediately after the CFW Police department, we are scheduled to begin Second Touch rebanding for the City of Fort Worth Office of Emergency Management and Municipal Courts. In addition, we are currently in the process of scheduling the remaining City of Fort Worth Departments and External Agencies.



Police vehicles line up for rebanding at the Fort Worth Radio Shop in mid-November.

LTE from page 2

In late September the City of Fort Worth hosted the North Texas Region Public Safety LTE Interoperability Forum. A number of forum attendees agreed that the next step would be to get together and discuss going to the North Central Texas Council of Governments to discuss supporting LTE projects within the region. A meeting with NCTCOG will be planned for January 2012.

For additional information, contact Eric Upchurch at (817) 392-8680.

New Advisory Panels Established For P25 Project

Two new advisory panels have been established to assist the P25 Radio Upgrade Project Team in the planning and implementation of the City's new radio system. Participants include:

Customer Advisory Committee

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Randy Barkley - City of Watauga | • Mark Bethany - Fort Worth ISD |
| • Frank Buchanan - Tarrant County College PD | • Charles Fletcher - City of Richland Hills |
| • Kelly Ham - TCU PD | • Scott Herbst - UNT Health Science Center PD |
| • Sean Hughes - City of North Richland Hills | • Steve Irvin - City of Haltom City |
| • Jimmy Johnson - Johnson County | • Terry Mayo - US Treasury |
| • Tammy Moore - MedStar | • J.D. Smith - The T |
| • Cody Watkins - CareFlite | • Eric Wersal - Tarrant County |
| • Tommy Williams - City of Kennedale | • Steve Yancey - City of Forest Hill |

CFW Steering Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • David Coble - Fire | • Daniel Garcia - Police |
| • Sam Greif - Fire | • Juan Ortiz - Emergency Management |
| • Abdul Pridgen - Police | • Kara Shuror - Water |

P25 Project from page 1

Equipment staging is the first of many major milestones scheduled over the next 3½ years during the implementation of the City's P25 radio upgrade. Since the kickoff on August 31, project leaders have spent countless hours planning and scheduling those milestones. The project's quality assurance consultants from Buford Goff & Associates (BGA) along with the Program Manager conducted workshops with each of the nine subproject managers, or "track leads". Each workshop produced a comprehensive list of high-level tasks that will be completed throughout the duration of the project.

Once the workshops were completed, all nine task lists were merged into a single project plan. This step ensured that dependencies among the different sub-projects were identified. If one sub-project falls behind schedule, the project team will be able to determine the impact on other portions of the project.

In November, the project leaders from the City, Motorola and BGA met for four days for a Detail Design Review. This review consisted of examining all aspects of the service descriptions and statement of work contained in the 700+ page contract between the City and Motorola. Items such as determining the number of electrical panels required at a radio site and how antenna cable might be routed from tower to building were typical of the type of details verified by the team.



Motorola Solutions engineer Bill Burks leads the discussion with project leaders during the four-day Detail Design Review held at the Joint Emergency Operations Center in Fort Worth.

Radio Services Updates

By Craig Clark



P25 System Testing Underway!

Phase 1 of the P25 Radio Project is on the air! The first small P25 site in downtown Fort Worth came up on November 10. Our service technicians will be testing the site during the next few months. They will also be hard at work developing fleet maps and code plugs to be tested prior to making the site operational in mid-2012.

The P25 Upgrade Project will be built upon this first phase.

Radio Tips

As two-way radio technology continues to improve, we find we can do things a lot more easily today than we could five or ten years ago. One thing that has changed dramatically is the number of talk groups a radio can hold. If your agency has more than 16 talk groups, you might consider adding radio operations training to your schedule. Because most users do not generally use other talk groups (especially interop talk groups) during their normal day to day operations, they forget where those groups are in their radio. By adding this to your training schedule (and practicing), the operator will get into the habit of knowing where all their talk groups are located. Then if they need to use them, they won't have to hunt. If you need assistance in developing radio training for your organization, feel free to contact me at (817) 392-2179.

Interoperability Communications Plan Drafted Plan Under Review By CFW Agencies And Customers

By David Tiwater



As part of the City of Fort Worth P25 Radio Upgrade Project, team members created a two-pronged plan for interoperability. Maintaining current levels of interoperable communications was of the utmost priority. No plan would be considered successful if any of the current interoperable communication capabilities were limited or lost. The plan addresses interoperable communications during the interim phase and provides current levels of functionality for users when the first sites go operational in June 2012 until the system is fully implemented and all analog channels are decommissioned on December 31, 2014.

The plan also outlines a talk group template supporting interoperable communications on the P25 system at the local, regional, state and national level. Planning includes a baseline standard operating procedure that covers rules and priority of use, activation and deactivation, and on-scene procedures for incident command.

Furthermore, the plan establishes an Interoperable Communications Committee made up of users, technical resources and agency representatives. These individuals will be responsible for further developing procedures, overseeing usage, and managing the testing and training efforts.

A draft of a document entitled, "The Fort Worth P25 Radio System Interoperability Resources - Guidance For Operations Procedures", has been presented to both the P25 Project Customer Advisory Committee and the CFW Radio Steering Committee for review and comments. This document presents a solid groundwork for improved interoperability and future policy and procedure development.

For more information, contact David Tiwater with the Fort Worth Police Department at (817) 922-3206.

Microwave Upgrade Project Progresses Completion Scheduled For January 2012

By Nanette Monte

The City's microwave upgrade project is still progressing with an expected completion date of January 2012. Radios and antennas have been installed at our Rolling Hills, Burnett Plaza and Public Safety Building sites. The project is somewhat complex because it is a mixture of upgrades and replacements to the radios and antennas of our live microwave system. Because we are keeping the current system operational during the implementation, the City's vendor has built a "subnetwork" that will enable us to convert one microwave leg at a time. The methods used will help us keep the redundancies intact and help ensure the services that support public safety communications will not be interrupted.

Contact Nanette Monte at (817) 392-2625 for more information.

Did You Know?



More than 3,000 high-level tasks are included in the project plan for the P25 Radio Upgrade Project.

Radio Services Contact Information

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This newsletter is a quarterly publication. If you have any comments or wish to be added or removed from the Radio Services Newsletter Recipient List, please contact Alan Girton.

We are interested in your suggestions and your feedback. So please - let us know what you think!!